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## Flu Season

Bookings are now open for your free flu vaccinations!

If you are housebound and eligible you will be contacted directly by the practice to organise your vaccination.

2-3 year olds will be invited individually for set clinics in practice for the nasal flu vaccine.

If you are 18-65 with a chronic condition or over 65 you will receive a text message from the practice which contains a booking link to our scheduled clinics. Please use this where possible to ease pressures on our reception team.

## New Services

There are two new services available to our patients.

### 1. We are offering a new **skin lesion/mole clinic**.

If a patient calls the surgery, concerned about a mole/skin lesion the practice team will use specific triage questions to assess the appropriateness of the lesion for a dermoscopic image. Alternatively, the patient can be signposted to the practice website to self-refer.

Following the initial triage and if appropriate, patients are given a telephone number to call and book an appointment for imaging. In the future patients will be able to book their own appointment via SwiftQueue.

Appointments for imaging are offered to the patient within 7 days, after which

A full report is sent back to the patient at the practice with the outcome.

### 2. We are starting a **targeted lung healthcheck programme**.

Patients from the practice who are between 55 and 74 who smoke or used to smoke for a 10-minute telephone or face to face appointment where they will answer questions to create a risk score. If the risk is high, they will be referred for a CT scan of their lungs. If the risk is low, they will be discharged. A letter informing the patient of the screening outcome will be sent to the practice.

Information booklets are available from reception for patients with queries.

## Enhanced Access Clinics

Enhanced Access appointments are available for Colte patients on Saturdays in October as follows:

5<sup>th</sup> – Rowhedge Surgery

12<sup>th</sup> – Tiptree Surgery

19<sup>th</sup> – Walton Medical Centre

26<sup>th</sup> – Colne Medical Centre

Telephone appointments are also available every weekday evening from 6.30-8pm.

Please contact reception to book an appointment in any of these clinics.

Thank you for reading.

*Katie Pirie*

*Practice Manager*